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11 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations  
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: R&D for HUMINT

1. Some months ago I mentioned to you that [ ] had volunteered to do a study on what R&D might help the HUMINT area. On your advice I declined that, and I think that was the right thing to do.

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2. Dr. Perry, Chairman of the IR&DC, has now briefed me on his program for 1979. He mentioned that they would be pleased to look at whether there is any way R&D can better serve the HUMINT function. Dr. Perry is very conscious of the tradeoff between hoping to find some new R&D avenue for HUMINT and the danger of exposing too many people to the details of HUMINT activities. He does not see a high prospect that there is a potential payoff in R&D for HUMINT. He is willing to take our advice in the matter.

3. He and I did discuss the communications area. I told him that I am nervous about the number of different kinds of communications we are developing and whether there may be duplication between Army and CIA developments. It does seem to me to be worthwhile to have the IR&DC look at this one phase of HUMINT, both to see if the directions we are going are the best and whether there are any other communications techniques just over the horizon.

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4. Beyond that, I would appreciate if you could give me "on the back of an envelope" the three or four areas of HUMINT where you have the most difficulty, e.g., communications, reproduction of large volumes of data, etc. What I would do then is wisk these by Dr. Perry to see if they trigger any higher probability in his mind that there was an R&D potential to help us in one or more of these areas.

5. All portions of this document are classified Confidential.

*St*  
STANSFIELD TURNER

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cc: DDS&T

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